

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 and 2 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 3 through 9 to read, as follows.

1. **(Canceled)**

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 2,~~  
~~further comprising~~ comprising:

a developing device for developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with developer including toner and carrier;

a density sensor for detecting a density of a toner image;

control means for controlling an amount of toner to be supplied to said developing device by comparing an output of said density sensor with a target value;

changing means for changing the target value when the output of said density sensor falls into an error level; and

recovering means for supplying the toner based on the target value changed by said changing means to perform a recovery operation,

wherein when the output of said density sensor falls into the error level, said changing means changes the target value to a second target value, which is lower than a

first target value, which is the target value before the output of said density sensor falls into the error level.

~~an image density sensor for detecting a density of a toner image~~, wherein when the output of said density sensor reaches the second target value, said recovering means performs a detection operation by said ~~image~~ density sensor, and finishes the recovery operation.

4. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said recovering means performs feedback to an image formation condition in accordance with the output of said ~~image~~ density sensor, and finishes the recovery operation.

5. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 2~~,  
comprising:

a developing device for developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with developer including toner and carrier;

a density sensor for detecting a density of a toner image;

control means for controlling an amount of toner to be supplied to said developing device by comparing an output of said density sensor with a target value;

changing means for changing the target value when the output of said density sensor falls into an error level; and

recovering means for supplying the toner based on the target value changed by said changing means to perform a recovery operation.

wherein when the output of said density sensor falls into the error level, said changing means changes the target value to a second target value, which is lower than a first target value, which is the target value before the output of said density sensor falls into the error level, and

wherein when the output of said density sensor reaches the second target value, said changing means changes the target value to a third target value having a level between the second target value and the first target value, and said recovering means supplies the toner based on the third target value, and continues the recovery operation.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 2,~~  
comprising:

a developing device for developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with developer including toner and carrier;

a density sensor for detecting a density of a toner image;

control means for controlling an amount of toner to be supplied to said developing device by comparing an output of said density sensor with a target value;

changing means for changing the target value when the output of said density sensor falls into an error level; and

recovering means for supplying the toner based on the target value changed by said changing means to perform a recovery operation,

wherein when the output of said density sensor falls into the error level, said changing means changes the target value to a second target value, which is lower than a

first target value, which is the target value before the output of said density sensor falls into the error level, and

wherein unless the output of said density sensor reaches the second target value in a predetermined time, the recovery operation is stopped, and a warning is given.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, comprising:

a developing device for developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with developer including toner and carrier;

a density sensor for detecting a density of a toner image;

control means for controlling an amount of toner to be supplied to said developing device by comparing an output of said density sensor with a target value;

changing means for changing the target value when the output of said density sensor falls into an error level; and

recovering means for supplying the toner based on the target value changed by said changing means to perform a recovery operation,

wherein when the output of said density sensor falls into the error level, said changing means changes the target value to a second target value, which is lower than a first target value, which is the target value before the output of said density sensor falls into the error level, and

wherein the following expression is satisfied:

$$V_e + (V_1 - V_e) \times 0.5 \leq V_2 \leq V_e + (V_1 - V_e) \times 0.8$$

where  $V_e$  is the error level,  $V_1$  is the first target value, and  $V_2$  is the second target value.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~  
~~further comprising~~ comprising:

a developing device for developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with developer including toner and carrier;

a density sensor for detecting a density of a toner image;

control means for controlling an amount of toner to be supplied to said developing device by comparing an output of said density sensor with a target value;

changing means for changing the target value when the output of said density sensor falls into an error level; and

recovering means for supplying the toner based on the target value changed by said changing means to perform a recovery operation.

~~an image density sensor for detecting a density of a toner image, wherein said~~  
recovering means performs a detection operation by said ~~image~~ density sensor, and finishes the recovery operation.

9. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said recovering means performs feedback to an image formation condition in accordance with the output of said ~~image~~ density sensor, and finishes the recovery operation.